

Bush's Election-Year Conversion
After Amassing the Worst Job Creation Record in 60 Years, Bush Suddenly Cares

SOTU Message:

Johnny Come Lately. George W. Bush waited three years – the last year of his Presidency and an election year – to address issues key to millions of Americans and his proposed solutions fall far short, come too late and offer too little.

With three million jobs lost and 2.4 million Americans joining the ranks of the uninsured, George Bush is being led by election-year desperation – not compassion – to finally talk about these pressing issues. A majority of Americans (53 percent) believe the country is headed in the wrong direction, according to the latest Gallup poll.

FORGOTTEN UNDER BUSH: Jobs

In the past 3 years, America has lost nearly 3 million private sector jobs. In his last 3 budgets, Bush has reduced job training programs every year for a total of \$ 1.16 billion in cuts from previous years, while his proposed 2004 funding cut 12% percent of the 2001 allocation. For eight million workers, President Bush has proposed cutting into their income with rules that would eliminate their overtime pay.

Manufacturing:

In the past 3 years, America has lost 2,472,000 million manufacturing jobs. Manufacturing has lost jobs every month in Bush's presidency. It has been the hardest hit sector of our economy accounting for more than 82% of total jobs lost: economists predict at least half of those jobs are lost forever.

The administration's decision to support retention of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a network of assistance centers around the country, was an about-face from its position a year ago when Bush's budget called for the program to be phased out.

FORGOTTEN UNDER BUSH: Health Insurance

Forty-three million Americans are without health insurance with a disturbing increase of 2.4 million uninsured under the Bush administration.

Bush's neglect of the economy has fueled the increase of the uninsured, with people losing their insurance along with their jobs. A devastating reality for millions of American families.

In the past 3 years average employer-based health insurance premiums have gone up 28%. The cost of the top 10 most used prescription drugs have gone up 8.7 % over the last year - and they have increased 5 times the rate of inflation over the last 5 years.

FORGOTTEN UNDER BUSH: Homeland Security

Currently as little as 2 percent of the six million cargo containers entering the U.S. each year are screened. At least five major airports are not fully screening baggage electronically. There is only one border patrol agent for every 11 miles of our northern border. George W. Bush shortchanged homeland security funding needs by \$150 million in his last budget.